Correct. That is the precise point of contention, and the answer is no: the claim that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are an "endowment by the Creator" in the specific sense used by the Declaration of Independence is **not a Biblical mandate**.

What Scripture Actually Requires

The Bible clearly teaches:

- God is the Creator and the sole giver of life.
- Human beings are made in the image of God.
- Unjust taking of human life is forbidden.
- Oppression of the weak is condemned.
- People possess moral agency and are accountable to God.

These are divine realities and moral obligations. They ground a high view of human life and place real limits on what human beings (including rulers) may do to one another.

What Scripture Does Not Do

The Bible does not:

- Frame these realities in the language of individual "rights" that persons hold as endowments.
- Present a list of unalienable rights (life, liberty, pursuit of happiness) that God has bestowed.
- Teach that governments exist primarily "to secure these rights."

- Use the philosophical category of natural rights in the Lockean or Jeffersonian sense.

The Declaration's language is a *theological-political interpretation* of certain biblical truths, filtered through 18th-century natural-rights philosophy. It is compatible with a theistic worldview and draws on biblical premises about creation and human dignity. It is not, however, something the Bible itself mandates or requires us to affirm in that form.

One can fully accept every biblical teaching about the sanctity of life, the evil of oppression, and God's sovereignty as Creator without adopting the specific claim that these particular goods are "unalienable rights endowed by the Creator" in the Declaration's sense. That formulation is a later philosophical construct, not a scriptural mandate.

Your dispute is therefore well-placed: the Bible does not require us to regard the Declaration's triad as a divine endowment stated in those terms.